Introduction to Web Development - Task 1
Web Accessibility Research

Websites have become an important, frequently used way of communication, and while it would be a lie to say that websites haven't improved from their inception till now, there's still issues when it comes to a specific factor; Accessibility. Web Accessibility is the practise of making a website accessible to anyone, regardless of their abilities.

Web Accessibility begins with the design of the website itself. Designers have to keep in mind the typeface and colours they are using when planning a website, especially the contrast between the text and the background. Low contrast colours will make the text unreadable, hindering the website's accessibility.

7TH HEAVEN
7th Heaven - Barbie Pink Rose Cleansing Clay Mask

€3.49

7TH HEAVEN
7th Heaven - Black Clay Peel Off Mask For Men

€1.99

Detox and purify skin with our Black Clay Peel-Off...

7TH HEAVEN
7th Heaven - Black Clay Peel-off Mask + Blackhead Nose Strip For Men

€2.99

Step1: Detox and purify skin with our Black Clay...

Figure 1-An example of poor contrast on roseberrycosmetics.com.

Another aspect of accessibility is the typeface chosen for the website. Bolder fonts tend to be easier to read, while cursive fonts tend to challenge people.

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Cluttered content is also an issue when it comes to navigating a website. Too much content can be confusing and distracting for users to navigate through.
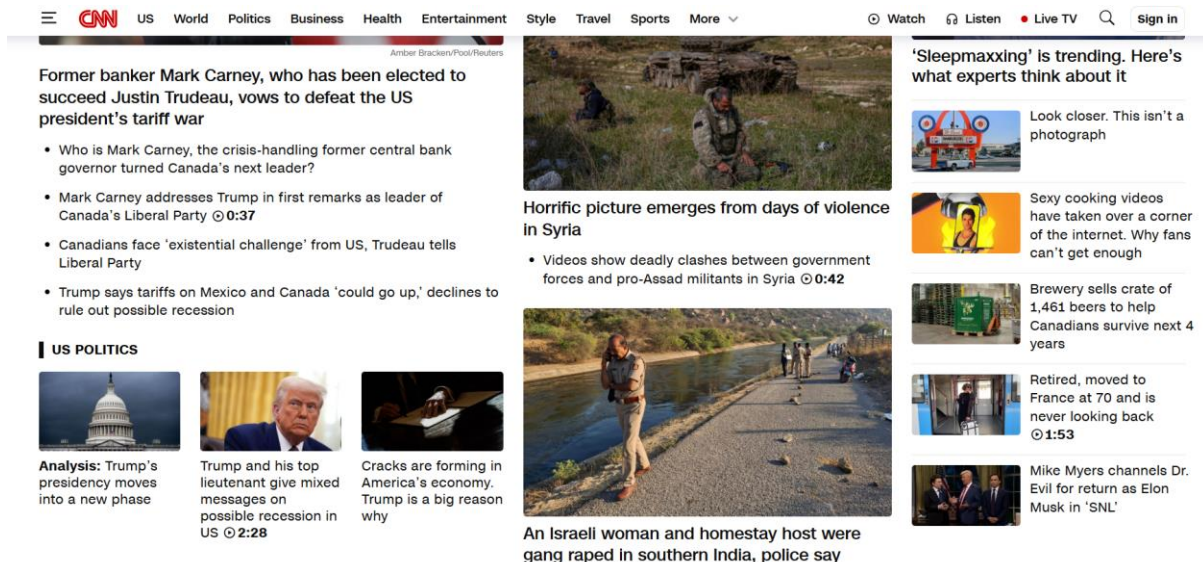

Figure 2- An example of a website having a lot of clutter on CNN.com.

Similarly to cluttered content, misleading links or buttons will make a website harder to navigate.

Figure 3-Text that is too similar to how links would be formatted on cfr.gov.mt.

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A lack of ALT text will also make a website less accessible. In the case of a picture going down on a website, Alt text must be included to give users an idea of what the image originally was, and aids the visually impaired in viewing the website by providing their screen readers text to read.
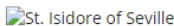

Digital image that loaded correctly	Digital image that did not load correctly and does not have alt text	Digital image that did not load correctly and **does** have alt text
		St. Isidore of Seville

Figure 4-Graphic made by the University of Dayton explaining how ALT text works.

To combat inaccessibility, there are tools like contrast checkers to ensure that the background colour and the text colour work harmoniously together, and tools that are present on the website itself, like the Accessibility Adjustments menu. This menu caters to various disabilities, from seizures to ADHD. Depending on how complex the menu is, it can help with changing the colour mode of the website, to adjusting the kerning between letters, and even highlighting specific parts of a website so users can stay focused.

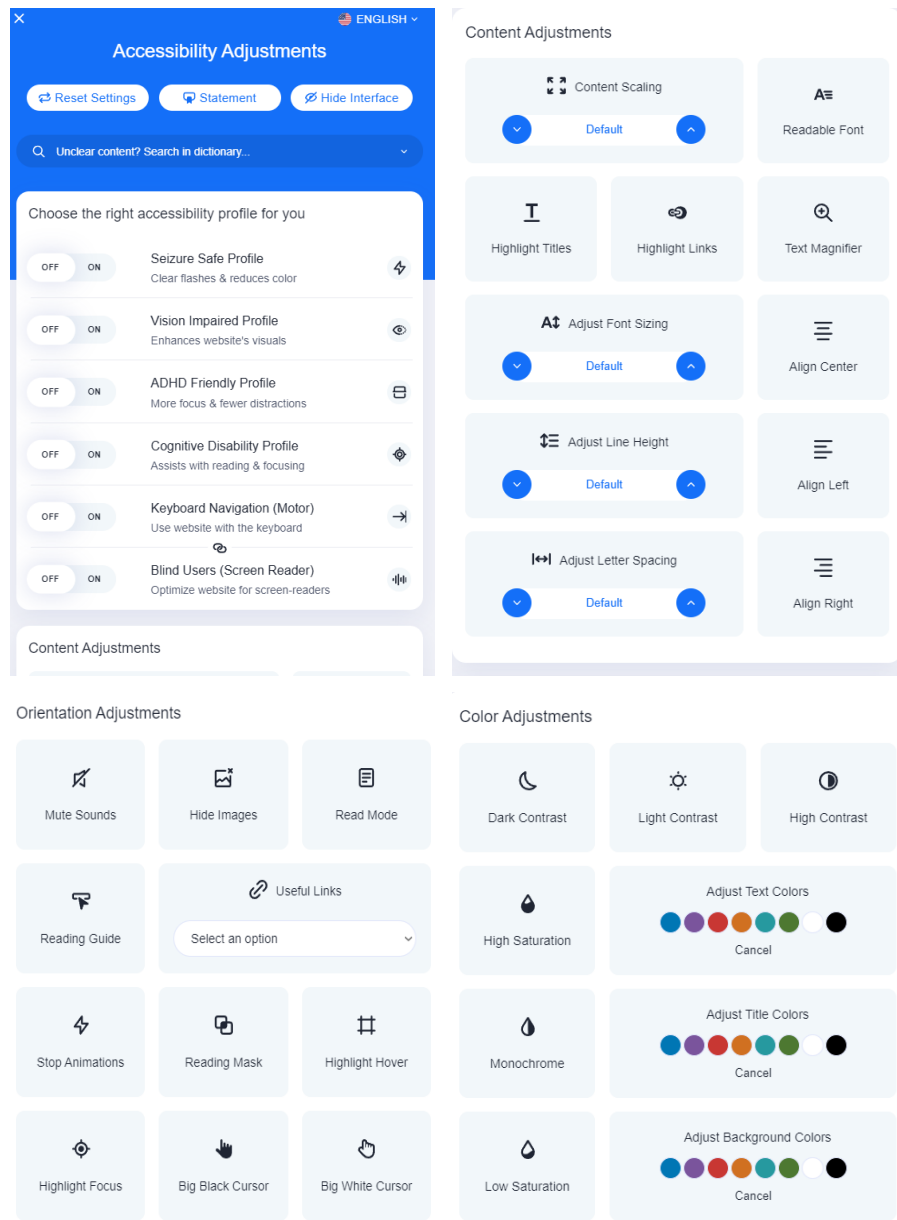# Introduction to Web Development - Task 1
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Figure 5- The Accessibility Adjustments menu from AccessiBe.com

For my website, I want to stick with bold typefaces so it can be easier to read, as well as testing out which colours will both match with my theme and keep a good level of contrast. I will also include ALT text. I would like to implement a dark mode, somehow, since I am an avid user of that feature, although implementing a feature like that, and something similar to an Accessibility Adjustments menu without JavaScript is difficult. I

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might have to stick to more primitive ways of being accessible, like legible typefaces, easily identifiable links, ALT text and a good level of contrast between the background and text, and making sure that any links and menus I implement actually work. I think having a working website and an accessible one work hand-in-hand together, since removing one simple aspect of accessibility will hinder the websites performance.